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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/12563 (22) International Filing Date: 3 June 1999 (03.06.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/090,305 3 June 1998 (03.06.98) US 09/259,705 1 March 1999 (01.03.99) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): COALES- CENT SURGICAL, INC. [US/US]; 559 East Weddell Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94089 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SCHALLER, Laurent [US/US]; 595 Benvenue Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024 (US). MARONEY, Charles, T. [US/US]; 25 Coyote Hill, Portola Valley, CA 94028 (US). DREWS, Phillip [US/US]; 216 Topeka Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126 (US). GAN- DIONCO, Isidro, Matias [US/US]; 36520 Alder Court, Fre- mont, CA 94536 (US). NGUYEN, John [US/US]; 4053 Forestwood Drive, San Jose, CA 95121 (US). HO, Liem [VN/US]; 2235 California Street #158, Mountain View, CA 94040 (US). DOAN, Nga, T. [US/US]; 307 Sereno Vista Way, San Jose, CA 95116 (US).		(74) Agents: MACEY, Harry, J. et al.; Morrison & Foerster LLP, 755 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304-1018 (US). (81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.	
(54) Title: TISSUE CONNECTOR APPARATUS AND METHODS			
(57) Abstract			
<p>A tissue connector assembly comprising a clip movable between an open configuration and a closed configuration and a mechanical restraining device attached to the clip for restraining the clip in its open configuration. A needle may be releasably attached to the clip. A flexible member may also interconnect the clip and the needle. In one embodiment, a plurality of strands are releasably attachable to the clip for restraining the clip in its open configuration. A method for connecting tissues is also disclosed.</p>			